

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 7-24 are pending in the subject application. Applicant acknowledges that claims 13-24 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 10 and 11 and amended claim 1. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the subject specification and in the claims as originally filed (see, for example, previously pending claims 10 and 11, Example 3 and paragraph 85 of the as-filed application). Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 7-9, and 12-24 are currently before the Examiner and claims 1-3 and 7-9 read on the elected invention. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested. As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Parce *et al.* (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0238545). The Office Action indicates that it is clear that the operation control reagent is also a reaction mixture as it performs a desired function of providing environmental control for fluid operations and prevents dissolved organic material from absorbing to a microchannel surface. The Parce *et al.* application teaches an “operation control reagent” comprising a surface adsorbing polymer in a buffered solution to prevent the adsorption of organic material on microchannel surfaces and that such a reaction mixture is not involved in a reaction of interest. However, it is respectfully submitted that Parce *et al.* fail to teach a surface adsorbing polymer that is a block-copolymer comprising propylene oxides and ethylene oxides. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Parce *et al.* (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0238545) in view of Voss *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,706,162). The Office Action argues that Parce *et al.* teach an “operation control reagent” comprising a surface adsorbing polymer in a buffered solution to prevent the adsorption of organic material on microchannel surfaces and that such a reaction mixture is not involved in the reaction of interest. The Office Action notes that Parce *et al.* is silent with respect to the molecular weight of a surface adsorbing polymer and relies on Voss *et al.* to cure this deficiency. The Office Action further

indicates that Parce *et al.* teach the surface adsorbing polymer include linear cellulose polymers, agarose polymers, acrylic polymers, polyacrylamide polymers and polydimethylacrylamide polymers and copolymers. Applicant respectfully asserts that the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited references. As noted above, Parce *et al.* fail to teach a surface adsorbing polymer that is a block-copolymer comprising propylene oxides and ethylene oxides. Applicant further submits that Voss *et al.* fail to remedy this defect in the teachings of Parce *et al.* Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested as a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claimed invention has not been established by the combination of references.

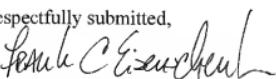
It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicant's agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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